International Seabed Authority

ISBA/22/LTC/1

Legal and Technical Commission

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Twenty-second session
Kingston, Jamaica
11-22 July 2016

Agenda of the Legal and Technical Commission[1]

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair.

A. Activities of contractors

4. Report on the status of contracts for exploration.
5. Status of implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and allocation of training opportunities.
6. Consideration of applications for extensions of contracts in accordance with the procedures and criteria for the extension of an approved plan of work for exploration pursuant to section 1, paragraph 9, of the annex to the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982.[2]
7. Consideration of the annual reports of contractors.[3]
8. Information on periodic reviews of implementation of plans of work for exploration.[3]
9. Review of recommendations for the guidance of contractors issued by the Legal and Technical Commission:

[1] The Commission will meet twice in 2016. The first meeting will be held from 22 February to 4 March 2016; the second meeting will take place during the twenty-second session of the Authority, from 11 to 22 July 2016. Unless otherwise indicated, the items in the provisional agenda will be taken up by the Commission at its first meeting.

[2] ISBA/21/C/19, annex.

[3] To be taken up at the July session.

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(a) Recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration;[4]

(b) Recommendations for the guidance of contractors for the assessment of the possible environmental impacts arising from exploration for marine minerals in the Area.[3,5]

B. Applications for approval of plans of work for exploration

10. Consideration of applications for approval of plans of work for exploration[6] for:

(a) Cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts;

(b) Polymetallic nodules;

(c) Polymetallic sulphides.

C. Environmental matters

11. Review of the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan for the Clarion-Clipperton Zone and issues related to the development of other environmental management plans in the Area.

12. Consideration of the outcomes of the international workshop on taxonomic methods and standardization of meiofauna in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, held in Ghent, Belgium, from 14 to 17 December 2015.

D. Draft regulations for exploitation

13. Consideration and approval of draft regulations for exploitation of mineral resources in the Area.

E. Data management

14. Consideration of a technical implementation plan for improved databases and a data management strategy for the Authority.

F. Matters referred to the Commission by the Council

15. Issues related to the sponsorship by States of contracts of exploration in the Area, with particular attention to the test of effective control, as well as issues related to monopolization of activities in the Area, taking into consideration, in particular, the concept of abuse of a dominant position.[3]

16. Issues relating to the operation of the Enterprise, in particular the legal, technical and financial implications for the Authority.[3]

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[4] ISBA/19/LTC/14.

[5] ISBA/19/LTC/8.

[6] Applications for approval of plans of work for exploration will be considered in the order of their receipt.

17. Consideration of issues relating to the handling of confidential data and information, as provided for in rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Commission.

18. Consideration of a stakeholder consultation and engagement strategy.

G. Other matters

19. Other matters.